

Former Tarter Added to Vietnam Victims

Torrance

Press-Herald

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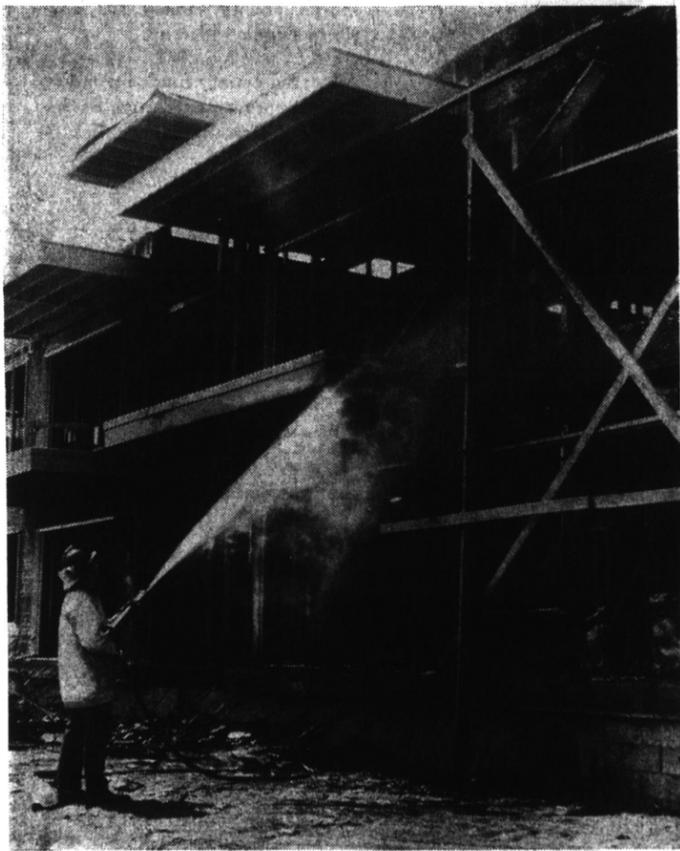
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PROJECT DAMAGED . . . An apartment complex under construction at Samuel and 230th Street was damaged Friday afternoon when a fire started in the building. Firemen at the scene were told that three juveniles were seen in the building earlier. Damage was limited to about \$2,000, the Press-Herald was told. (Press-Herald Photo)

Deputy Stops 'Smoker'; Nabs 2 for Dope, Theft



MICHAEL ROBARDS
Wins Hero's Medal

Torrance Soldier Honored

A Torrance soldier serving in Vietnam has been awarded the Army Commendation Medal for heroism in combat. Spec. 4 Michael Robards, son of Mr. and Mrs. William C. Robards of 3310 Sonoma St., received the medal—an Army Commendation Medal with "V" device—for action last Jan. 20 near Pleiku, Vietnam.

The medal was presented by Brig. Gen. Don R. Hickman, assistant division commander of the 4th Infantry Division who said "Michael's actions under the pressures of war distinguished him as a young man with a superior sense of responsibility and a fine devotion to duty and show that he is truly deserving of the award."

ROBARDS, attached to Company C, 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry, 4th Infantry Division, was engaged in operations with his unit when the group came under intense automatic weapons, mortar, and small weapons fire. The citation accompanying the award read in part: "On initial contact, several members of his squad were wounded. With complete disregard for his own safety, Pfc. Robards rushed forward to aid his fallen comrades. During the action, he fired an M-80 machine gun obtained from a wounded soldier. He laid down a heavy barrage of automatic fire on enemy bunkers, rushing from one position to another, drawing the enemy's fire upon himself to allow his fellow platoon members to evacuate the wounded to safety."

"THROUGHOUT the engagement, he constantly exposed himself to intense enemy fire to aid in the evacuation of his wounded comrades." Specialist Robards, a 1966 graduate of Torrance High School, enlisted in the Army Dec. 6, 1966, and arrived in Vietnam June 19, 1967. He is due to return home in mid-June.

Club to Meet
Members of the Torrance Stamp Club will meet Monday, June 10, to discuss plans for summer activities. The meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at the Scott Park Community Building, 23410 Catalina Ave., Wilmington.

South High Students Attacked

Fighting broke out at Torrance Beach Friday night when three unidentified teenagers jumped on two South High students for no apparent reason, police said.

The victims, Scott M. Darnall, 15, 4426 Pacific Coast Hwy., and Joseph Murphy, 18, 23920 Janet Lane, told police they approached the three suspects, seated around a bonfire, to see if they knew them.

The three suspects, two of them possibly Mexicans, reportedly said, "Do you want to fight?" One of the three then said, "We are from San Pedro and we don't like guys from South."

In the fight that followed, one of the suspects hit Murphy on the back of the head with a 2x4, severely injuring him. Both boys received multiple cuts and bruises, police said.

Wife Cut With Razor 56 Times

An enraged husband attacked his estranged wife with a razor blade Friday afternoon, inflicting 56 shallow cuts, police reports indicate.

Sought on charges of assault with a deadly weapon is Pentti Margamaki, 23, of 1117 S. Centre, Apt. 8, San Pedro. Margamaki allegedly told his wife Linda, 20, of 3924 W. 182nd St., "I'm going to disfigure you so no one will look at you. I hate your guts."

Mrs. Margamaki told police her husband then held her down on the couch of her apartment, cutting her four times on the right arm, seven times on the left arm, 20 times on the face, 10 times on the neck, and 15 times on the chest area.

The victim drove herself to Harbor General Hospital for treatment. The Margamakis had been separated two months.

Last Day Of Weekend Dangerous

The trip home at the end of a long holiday weekend is just as dangerous to the motorist and his passengers as the trip at the start of the holiday.

This comment was made by Capt. P. J. Ford of the California Highway Patrol as his officers prepared for the last day of the Memorial Day holiday.

"Families too often delay the start of their return trip, and either drive too fast or are on the road so late that fatigue sets in," Captain Ford said. "Either way, they're inviting an accident."



GARY W. PURCELL
Killed in Vietnam

Marine Dies in Vietnam

Marine Pfc. Gary W. Purcell, 19-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. William F. Purcell of 3017 Antonio St., was killed in action in Vietnam May 24, it was learned here Friday.

Private Purcell died of fragmentation wounds suffered in combat operations in Quang Nam province, it was reported. He had been in Vietnam only 42 days.

The young Marine attended Madrona Elementary School and Torrance High School.

He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 27th Regiment, 1st Marine Division.

In addition to his parents, Private Purcell is survived by a brother, Dennis Purcell; and his grandmothers, Mrs. Connie Brown of 16619 Falda Ave. and Mrs. Judith W. Purcell of 1411 Amapola St. Also surviving are two uncles.

Funeral services are pending at the Halverson-Leavell Mortuary.

School Sets Graduation Ceremonies

Commencement exercises at the Southern California Military Academy will be held Friday at 7 p.m. in the school gymnasium, 2065 Cherry Ave., Long Beach.

Torrance students among the 41 graduating ninth graders are John J. Bankard, son of Mr. and Mrs. John J. Bankard of 22812 Broadwell Ave., and Michael A. Deffenderfer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Deffenderfer of 18909 Cordary St.

From Gardena is David R. Strubble, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Strubble of 19403 Campaign Drive.

Coed Honored

Gayle Wadlow, a 20-year-old coed at the University of Southern California, has won an occupational therapy scholarship from the March of Dimes Foundation. She lives at 225 W. 224th Place.

Officer Finds Tools, Stereo Decks, 'Speed'

A driver stopped for a check on his smoking auto exhaust wound up in jail along with his passenger Friday, each charged with theft and narcotics violations.

Deputy William Alexander, on duty in a Rolling Hills shopping area, stopped a car driven by Mark Melvin Anderson, 20, of 3341 Cricklewood St., when he noted what appeared to be an excessive amount of smoke pouring from the exhaust.

While interrogating Anderson and his passenger, identified as Douglas Edward Pullins, 18, of 1757 Addison Road, Palos Verdes Estates, Deputy Alexander noticed several radios, stereo tape

decks, and tapes stacked in the vehicle.

Deputies searching the car also found a metal box resembling a cash box, equipment for preparing and administering narcotics, a quantity of heroin, and 60 grams of methadone, a drug widely known as "speed."

Deputies also found two wallets when searching Anderson, the Press-Herald was told. One contained \$3 and the other, with no identification in it, contained \$290.

Pullins, a Palos Verdes High School student, was booked on suspicion of burglary and possession of narcotics. Anderson, Palos Verdes Estates, was charged with suspicion of burglary, robbery, and possession of narcotics.

School Publication Wins National Magazine Award

Torrance Unified School District has been cited for special recognition in the 1968 School Public Relations Awards contest, conducted by School Management Magazine. The district was honored for its publication "Torrance Schools," prepared by Mrs. Rose Saunders, information coordinator.

In this eighth year of the contest, more than 1,200 entries — a record number — were received and judged. The 136 winners, representing nearly 100 communities in 35 states and Canada, are announced in the May issue of School Management, a leading national publication for school board members and administrators.

Eight publication categories were considered by the judging team, composed of the magazine's staff, two nationally-known education editors and a professional magazine designer. The categories were: curriculum and guidance projects; teacher recruitment brochures; staff publications; school district periodicals; annual reports; building campaign literature; budget and finance publications; and special material.

Torrance Unified School District was cited for its publication in school district periodicals.

Special certificates have been awarded to Mrs. Saunders and to the district.

Purpose of the contest is to encourage better school public relations by singling out district that demonstrate superior skills in their publications.

Bearded Bandit Hunted - - -

A bearded bandit wearing sunglasses who entered the bank shortly before noon Friday took \$6,423 from tellers at the Bank of America branch at 18511 S. Avalon Blvd. Deputies who investigated the robbery were told that three tellers and more than a dozen customers were held at gunpoint while the bandit stuffed money from the teller's cages into his shirt. The car in which he fled the area was found nearby a short time later. It had been stolen earlier in Los Angeles.

Market Safe Burgled - - -

Burglars who tore a hole in the roof to gain entrance and then used an acetylene torch to open a safe, took about \$2,000 from the Market Basket at 129 E. Lomita Blvd. in Carson Friday. The burglars left behind two pry bars and an oxygen tank.

Flames Damage Restaurant - - -

A deep-fry kettle which burst into flames just before 4 a.m. Thursday caused damages estimated to exceed \$5,000 at the International House of Pancakes, Carson Street and Hawthorne Boulevard. Three engines, two trucks, and the salvage unit responded under the command of Battalion Chief Ray Flagg. The fire was spotted by Roy Douglas who was cleaning the restaurant at the time. He called firemen who were able to knock down the blaze within minutes of their arrival.

Del Amo Design Work Set

Plans to extend Del Amo Boulevard west from Henrietta Streets to Prospect Avenue in Redondo Beach received a boost Tuesday when the City Council appropriated \$16,000 for design work on the project.

Councilmen also agreed to hire Lanco, a land consultant and engineering firm, to complete work on the project.

Public Works Director Walter M. Nollac told councilmen the city will seek an agreement with the city of Redondo Beach in order to complete the work.

Estimated cost of the project is \$240,000. Del Amo Boulevard is a county Master Plan highway and will eventually be extended from the vicinity of King Harbor easterly through the county.

COUNCILMEN also granted a request from Lew Jenkins of the Southern California Edison Company for a year's continuation of the hearing concerning property located on the east side of Yukon Avenue between 182nd Street and the San Diego Freeway. A building moratorium will be imposed during this extension.

The Edison Company is seeking a zone change on the property from residential to controlled commercial. More time is needed to come up with a precise plan for use of the property.

Residential property owners in the area have objected to the zone change. Homeowners' representative Max Kelly, 18407 Haas Ave., said that commercial use of the property would present a safety hazard, as there is a school right across the street.

Mayor Albert Isen termed the Edison Company request "reasonable," noting that the firm plans to lease 10 acres to the city from proposed Columbia Park. Jenkins agreed to give 45 days notice before requesting approval and execution of an agreement providing for financing of a Carson area drainage complex has won approval by County Supervisors, it was reported by Supervisor Kenneth Hahn.

The pact between the County Flood Control District and the Department of Housing and Urban Development is expected to lead to the reopening hearings with presentation of precise plans.

ANOTHER zone change was also debated at length at the Tuesday night meeting, which didn't adjourn until 2 a.m. Councilmen voted 6-0 to deny permission to build apartment units on property located on the north side of Spencer Street, 438 feet east of Hawthorne Boulevard. The property is now zoned for single residential use. Joseph Alario, 20425 Madison St., who described himself as the "unwilling president of the homeowners' association," presented councilmen with a petition bearing signatures of 176 residents of the immediate area requesting denial of the zone change. Alario said that apartments would change the quiet, residential atmosphere of the neighborhood and overload schools.

Trustee Scholar Admitted to USC

Richard Dale Epstein, 3921 W. 184th Place, who has maintained a straight-A average at North High School, will enter the University of Southern California in September as a Trustee Scholar.

Epstein will be one of only 10 freshmen students to be so honored among more than 1,500 who will be entering USC for the first time.

Supervisors Authorize New Drainage Complex

A resolution authorizing approval and execution of an agreement providing for financing of a Carson area drainage complex has won approval by County Supervisors, it was reported by Supervisor Kenneth Hahn.

The pact between the County Flood Control District and the Department of Housing and Urban Development is expected to lead to the

Federal Government furnishing \$1,395,000 for the system. Hahn said the monies will be applied to supplemental project no. 1153 which, in combination with projects nos. 685 and 1232 1/2 will complete the Torrance lateral drainage system.

The project will provide additional relief to this area during heavy rains, Hahn said.

Members of the Torrance Stamp Club will meet Monday, June 10, to discuss plans for summer activities. The meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at the Scott Park Community Building, 23410 Catalina Ave., Wilmington.

Since moving to Torrance two years ago, Dale has served as Patrol Leader, Scribe, and Assistant Patrol Leader in Troop 586. He is currently serving as Den Chief for Cub Pack 586. Both troops are sponsored by the Calle Mayor PTA. Dale will enter the 10th grade at South High this September.

Torrance Scout Wins Eagle Rank

Dale Eichman, 15-year-old member of Boy Scout Troop 586, was honored Wednesday at a Court of Honor, naming him to the top rank of Eagle Scout.

Dale, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Eichman, 23147 Anza Ave., is also a member of the Order of the Arrow and was elected senior patrol leader. The new Eagle Scout joined Cub Scout Pack 646-C in the Thunderbird District in 1962, and continued with Boy Scout Troop 646, achieving the Star rank.

Since moving to Torrance two years ago, Dale has served as Patrol Leader, Scribe, and Assistant Patrol Leader in Troop 586. He is currently serving as Den Chief for Cub Pack 586. Both troops are sponsored by the Calle Mayor PTA. Dale will enter the 10th grade at South High this September.